



Darryl Behnke

April 30, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved son, brother and friend, Darryl Behnke, who went to be with the Lord on April 30th 2023 at the age of 42. Darryl was born on September 15th 1980 to Debra and Edward Behnke.

Despite facing many physical challenges throughout his life, Darryl never let his limitations define him. Darryl's life was a true inspiration to all of us. He lived with joy and courage in all situations, reminding us all of what it means to actively demonstrate and live out the biblical words of James 1:2-4.

Darryl left a lasting impact to everyone he met. His dry sense of humor and smile was infectious and he had a unique way of making everyone feel welcomed in his presence. Darryl showed us what it means to persevere, to have faith, and to live a life of purpose. Instead of complaining about his circumstances, he looked for ways to bless others. His strength and courage were a testament to his unwavering heart for his friends, his loyalty to his family and his faith in God.

Darryl was the first Boy Scout in the state of NJ to earn Eagle Scout honors in a wheelchair. He was a 2-time air rifle champion for the Bell Telephone Disability event in Parkersburg, VA. Darryl was also a well-loved volunteer at Elmer Hospital and the unofficial mayor of whatever town he was in.

With Darryl's influence coupled with his mother's activism in NJ, he helped to reform numerous state laws and new medical standards for the disabled community. He was also influential in helping to provide disabled residents with transportation through Darryl's Wheels Foundation. He was instrumental in the building of the Freedom Village project, a 60-unit accessible apartment complex in Salem County, in which the road was named in his honor.

Darryl was faithful to utilize his many gym memberships for socialization purposes and once in a while to work out too. You would often find him wearing a fedora; hanging out

with his friends at the Riverview deck in Pennsville, NJ, sipping wine at the local vineyards, or frequenting the Ocean Drive Sand Bar in Sea Isle City, NJ. He enjoyed playing games with his niece and nephews and loved cheering on the Eagles with his "Pop" Charlie.

Darryl leaves behind his parents, mother Debra Behnke, stepfather Charles Hassler, and his sister, Marianne (Behnke) Stutzman and her husband Nate, stepsister Aidan (Hassler) Wilson and her husband Mike as well as nephews Noah and Leeland and niece Maliha, and many other family members and friends who will miss him dearly. We take comfort in knowing that Darryl is now with his Savior, Jesus Christ. He has been healed of all his physical limitations, and he is now walking with the Lord in heaven. We will always cherish the memories of Darryl's life and the impact he had on all who knew him.

Services will be held at Adams Funeral Home, 64 Broad Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098. There will be visitations on Friday night from 6 to 8 PM and Saturday morning from 10 to 11 AM. The funeral service will be Saturday morning at 11 AM. Interment will follow at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Elmer. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Darryl's memory to Darryl's Wheels, PO Box 43, Woodstown, NJ 08098. We give thanks for the life of Darryl Behnke and pray that his legacy will continue to inspire us all to live selfless lives centered on faith, hope and love.

www.adamsfuneralhome.org

Cemetery Details

Chestnut Grove Cemetery

2-32 Richwood Rd
Elmer, NJ 08318-2516

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Adams Funeral Home
64 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098
adamsfuneralhome@comcast.net

Visitation

MAY 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Adams Funeral Home
64 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098
adamsfuneralhome@comcast.net

Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Adams Funeral Home
64 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098
adamsfuneralhome@comcast.net

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Darryl was a joy to visit. We always shared interesting stories together. For one so limited physically, his mind exceeded the capacity of most he came in contact with. What a determined spirit. I am better in my existence just to have known him. It was both an honor and a pleasure providing his care for him at home in his comfort zone. His presence will be greatly missed by all who experienced him.



Dr. Richard Sooy - May 09, 2023 at 08:57 AM

SP

“ I remember when he was a little boy and his bright smile. In later years I would run into him at Elmer hospital, he always had a smile and a hello. My sympathies to his Mom and family.



Susan PoliskiRemster - May 08, 2023 at 11:53 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 06, 2023 at 02:09 PM

LK

“ Lisa Killion-Smith purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Darryl Behnke.



Lisa Killion-Smith - May 05, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 04, 2023 at 01:07 PM

NS

“ I met Darryl in 2nd grade and we worked together for a few years once he was in 4th with Mrs. Mulligan. Pushed him hard to be independent and he surely rose to the challenge! Good times at ATS those many years and beyond. Truly Darryl loved people and never knew a stranger - everyone became a friend immediately. I'm certain he will be missed by many but you know, there's parties to attend in heaven with many who are already there. Although beyond our sight for now, he continues to live on in the hearts and experiences of folks here until we meet again. Godspeed Darryl. Continue on spreading your kindness and cheer in the heavenly realm. Say hello to Mrs. Mulligan, Mrs. Foster, and Mr. Kirby...

Norma Simpson - May 04, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 04, 2023 at 10:28 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 04, 2023 at 09:34 AM

KR

“ Darryl I Love you. I will Always remember you being there for me at A.I. Dupont. You brought me out of my depression ! All the memories at Freedom Village. You are forever in my heart. Gone too soon! Love you Buddy! Until we see again ! Love you buddy!! My heart is truly broken! It will never be the same at Freedom Village without you. 💔

Kristin - May 03, 2023 at 11:49 PM

LW

“ Love Wendel purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Darryl Behnke.



Love Wendel - May 03, 2023 at 04:10 PM

KB

“ Every afternoon at the end of the day, Darryl would wait for his bus in the music room in Alloway with Mr. Bell, (Kenny). He and his buddies would race around the room, knocking over chairs and having a good time. On report card day, when they were handwritten by the teachers, Darryl was so tickled that he had all A's on his report card, except one wasn't very clear. So, Kenny asked him if he wanted to play a trick on his mom. He agreed with great enthusiasm. Kenny changed the unclear grade to an F. Darryl arrived home and his Mom asked about his report card. He moped around a bit, (played it up) and presented the report card. Mom gave him 'down the road' for quite a while as he looked sad and dejected. He let her vent for a while, he fessed up and said that he and Mr. Bell were playing a joke on her. It was really an A. The following day Mom went in to see her former music teacher to address the joke. Kenny let her know that he was just paying her back from when she and her eighth grade friends picked up his VW and placed it up on a curb! The end result - lot's of laughter and another GREAT Darryl memory to live on!

Kenny and Janice Bell - May 03, 2023 at 03:27 PM

MR

“ I am so sorry to hear of Darryl's passing. I met him at SCC in 1999 and always kept in touch through social media over the years. Such a fun loving person he was, he knew no strangers. Love you my friend, until we meet again RIP.

Miranda M Riddle - May 03, 2023 at 01:25 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 03, 2023 at 10:09 AM

LT

“ I wish I could be with you in person to say goodbye, but please know that I will be there in spirit. Darryl always brightened up my night when he came to my shows. He was a dear friend who always supported me. I am so grateful to have known the wonderful, kind-hearted person that he always was and in my heart, always will be. I'll miss seeing his face in the crowd (front and center), and receiving his text messages throughout my shows, requesting all his favorite songs. I'll be dedicating each of those songs to him whenever I play them now because I know he'll be nearby. Those of us who knew him were lucky to have him in our lives. Debbie, I've never known as fierce a mother as you. You have truly always been an inspiration. My deepest condolences, warm and loving thoughts, and prayers for you all during this unimaginably difficult time.

LauraLea Taraskus - May 03, 2023 at 01:13 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 03, 2023 at 12:57 AM

TF

“ He never met a stranger . I'm sorry for ur loss

tj freeman - May 02, 2023 at 11:28 PM

KN

“ Your orneriness will forever be missed my amazing friend. I will forever cherish our many outings filled with laughter (and wine), our adventures to the park to walk Zeus, and the countless quiet moments sitting and chatting about all the things imaginable.

Kim Nixon - May 02, 2023 at 09:52 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 02, 2023 at 09:29 PM

DJ

“ I loved it when Darryl would come visit Jodie, DJ and I in Delaware! The best time was when we all went to Seacrets bar in Ocean City Maryland for his 21st birthday. We had a few drinks and messed with Jodie and ganged up on her with me as he always did. And got us good service by hitting on the pretty waitress! Cheers my friend! God Bless! Donny Elder.



donald elder jr - May 02, 2023 at 08:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darryl Behnke.



May 02, 2023 at 07:48 PM

MS

“ Darryl you will be missed Many who know Darryl will remember he was a Green Bay cheese head. That's until Pop Charlie got him to see the light and cheer for our Eagles. Darryl got GB honestly from is Grandpop Behnke. He went to see them at the Super Bowl. I loved him but I also tormented him about Jeff Gordon because he was a Dale Sr fan. So many memories and funny stories could be told. Just know Darryl, when I get to Heaven to join you I will be the one blowing on the back of your neck. Rest easy young man.

Ms Suzy - May 02, 2023 at 07:31 PM